

Notice of Proposed Change to Kodiak Alaska HF Marine Radiofax Product:

The Alaska Region of the National Weather Service is soliciting comments on the proposed termination of the Alaska Marine Table which broadcast over NOJ Kodiak Alaska HF Radiofax. Termination would begin no earlier than December 1, 2008.

Forecast information in the Marine Table is limited to conditions expected at 00 Zulu and 12 Zulu (00Z and 12Z) with no mention of possibly worse conditions during the hours in between. Since there is no capacity to provide the highest impact information to the mariner, the lack of detail in the Marine Table is potentially misleading. Since the product is neither amended nor updated it can provide erroneous information and be a source of confusion and inconsistency.

The Alaska Marine Table originated decades ago when ship to shore communication links were much less sophisticated. United States Coast Guard rescue crews and mariners using Kodiak HF Radiofax were the intended audience. Since the product's inception communication technologies have dramatically improved. Alaska mariners now have a variety of means to retrieve forecast and warning information. Newer options include satellite telephone communications and low bandwidth FTP email. Direct internet connections are becoming more common on larger vessels. Traditional sources such as NOAA Weather Radio...Marine Radiofax charts, and Alaska marine HF and VHF voice broadcasts will remain available. Information from these sources is far superior to that provided in the Marine Table, making this product obsolete.

The NWS will accept comments on the proposed termination of the Alaska Marine Table through **Friday, October 10, 2008**. Comments should be submitted through the following email address: **nws.ar.pafc.webauthors@noaa.gov**, or in writing to the contact listed below. The target date for final decision is October 15, 2008 with the earliest possible termination date being December 1, 2008. If you have any questions about this proposed termination please contact:

Bob Hopkins, Meteorologist in Charge
National Weather Service
Anchorage Forecast Office
6930 Sand Lake Road
Anchorage, AK 99502
Phone... 907.266.5120
Email...nws.ar.pafc.webauthors@noaa.gov

An example of the Marine Table can be found below:

Example of the Alaska Marine Table:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MARINE						FORECAST FOR ALASKA COASTAL WATERS					
FORECAST FOR 0000 UTC AUG 27 2008						FORECAST FOR 1200 UTC AUG 27 2008					
AREA	WIND	SEA	WEATHER	WARNINGS	ICING	AREA	WIND	SEA	WEATHER	WARNINGS	ICING
	(KT)	(FT)					(KT)	(FT)			
011	E10	02	RAIN		NONE	011	N10	02	RAIN		NONE
012	S10	02	RAIN		NONE	012	N05	01	RAIN		NONE
013	NE15	03	RAIN		NONE	013	N10	02	RAIN		NONE
021	E15	03	RAIN		NONE	021	NW10	02	RAIN		NONE
022	E20	04	RAIN		NONE	022	N10	03	RAIN		NONE
031	NE20	04	RAIN		NONE	031	N10	02	RAIN		NONE
032	NE15	03	RAIN		NONE	032	N10	02	RAIN		NONE
033	E35	09	RAIN	GALE	NONE	033	NE10	07	RAIN		NONE
034	E20	04	RAIN		NONE	034	E10	02	RAIN		NONE
035	E35	08	RAIN	GALE	NONE	035	E10	07	RAIN		NONE
036	SE35	11	RAIN	GALE	NONE	036	SE15	05	RAIN		NONE
041	E35	12	RAIN	GALE	NONE	041	SE10	11	RAIN	SMCR	NONE
042	E35	12	RAIN	GALE	NONE	042	NE15	10	RAIN	SMCR	NONE
043	E25	08	RAIN	SMCR	NONE	043	N15	08		SMCR	NONE
051	E15	06	RAIN		NONE	051	NW10	06			NONE
052	NE10	05	RAIN		NONE	052	NW10	05			NONE
120	E10	05	RAIN		NONE	120	W10	04			NONE
125	E05	02	RAIN		NONE	125	W05	02			NONE
130	E10	04			NONE	130	W05	04			NONE
132	NE05	04			NONE	132	W10	05	FOG		NONE
138	NE15	03			NONE	138	SW05	02			NONE
140	SW10	02			NONE	140	SW15	03			NONE
150	W10	05			NONE	150	SW15	06			NONE
155	W15	06			NONE	155	W15	05			NONE
160	SW15	04			NONE	160	W15	04			NONE
165	W15	04			NONE	165	W10	03			NONE
170	W15	04			NONE	170	NW20	06			NONE
172	NW20	06			NONE	172	N20	07			NONE
175	N20	06			NONE	175	NW20	06			NONE
176	N15	05			NONE	176	SW20	05	FOG		NONE
179	N25	07			NONE	179	N20	07			NONE
180	N25	08		SMCR	NONE	180	N25	07			NONE
185	N20	08		SMCR	NONE	185	NW10	05			NONE
310	NE30	10	RAIN		NONE	310	NW15	10			NONE
351	NE15	05			NONE	351	NW10	06			NONE
352	NE20	08		SMCR	NONE	352	NW10	08		SMCR	NONE
411	NW20	07			NONE	411	SW20	06	RAIN		NONE
412	N25	08		SMCR	NONE	412	NW15	07			NONE
413	N25	08		SMCR	NONE	413	NW20	08		SMCR	NONE
414	NW25	08		SMCR	NONE	414	N25	07			NONE
ISSUED 1200 UTC AUG 26 2008						FORECAST SCHEDULED AT 0400 UTC AUG 27 2008					
NEXT 12 AND 24 HOUR						MARINE FORECAST TABLES					